

Minutes of Special Meeting Thursday February 27, 2014
One Twin Pines Lane, Suite 360, Belmont, CA

CALL TO ORDER 6:35 P.M.

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Reed, Stone, Lieberman

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Braunstein

STAFF PRESENT: City Clerk Cook

Interview Candidates for Planning Commission, and Consider Appointments

Mayor Lieberman noted that Councilmember Braunstein was absent. He indicated that any vote taken would need to be unanimous since the City Council Protocols require three votes to appoint. He stated that he spoke with Councilmember Braunstein who indicated that if the City Council reached consensus on which candidates to appoint, he had no issue with the Council making its appointment this evening.

Kevin Sullivan, Kenn Parsons, Nancy Lum, and Blagoja Golubovski arrived for their panel interview.

Kevin Sullivan stated that he served on the Parks and Recreation Commission for five years and represented the interests of open space and trail users. He indicated that he participated in the development of Semeria Park and the proposed Davey Glen Park. He stated that he enjoys and supports the public process and learned that that process can change your mind about positions on issues. He noted that the proposed Davey Glen Park plan is in a better place because of that process. He would like to use his commission experience to do more, including in the downtown and other development. He is able to listen to divergent opinions.

Kenn Parsons stated that he was a professional planner by trade, and the Planning Commission was an extension of that work. He noted that he has worked with diverse city councils during his tenure, and has worked well with other commissioners. He is able to listen to anyone who has information to offer. He described his input which made for better projects, such as Notre Dame High School's new gym and field, and the rebuilding of Fire Station 14. He pointed out that he has more seniority than the majority of the planning staff. He expressed his desire to be involved in the development of downtown.

Nancy Lum stated she has lived in Belmont for ten years and has taken advantage of all that Belmont offers. She described her background in computer science, and pointed out that she has experience working in groups. She indicated her willingness to keeping an open mind and coming up with solutions that work for everyone. She expressed her desire to improve the reputation of the commission, to make the planning process less confusing and less intimidating.

Blagoja Golubovski stated that he has lived in Belmont for four years. He described his professional experience as a product manager for a software company. He stated that he is accustomed to working in teams. He noted that zoning and planning are a passion for him, and he has many skills applicable to the work of the Planning Commission.

The panel interview ensued.

RECESS: 8:05 P.M.
RECONVENE: 8:10 P.M.

Davina Hurt, Jeff Hyman, and Kerry MacDonald arrived for their panel interview.

Davina Hurt indicated that she has lived in Belmont for eight years and enjoys the small-town atmosphere. She noted that there will be many opportunities for progress. She would like to be part of the General Plan update and zoning changes. She would like to be a role model and to put forth ideas. She expressed a desire to make the city children-friendly. She commented regarding the pending Firehouse Square development and noted that it can be done using common sense.

Jeff Hyman discussed his previous Finance Commission service. He commented regarding the City Council's previous discussion on the Crystal Springs Uplands School project. He expressed a desire to have a more civilized process. He pointed out that the Planning Commission is not the enforcer of rules but is the facilitator to help people do great things for Belmont. He noted that he is a problem solver and facilitator.

Kerry MacDonald indicated that she is a four-year resident, and that trees and open space is what drew her to Belmont. She noted that Belmont is in a transition period. She described her experience as a structural engineer, and noted that she is knowledgeable about how project come together. She commented regarding the Ralston Corridor study and suggested a holistic approach be taken to solving traffic gridlock.

The panel interview ensued.

RECESS 9:15 P.M.
RECONVENE: 9:20 P.M.

Councilmember Stone commented on the high quality of all candidates. He pointed out that although Mr. Parsons has good institutional knowledge, it may be time for someone else. He appreciated the energy and positive attitude of Ms. Lum and Mr. Golubovski, and noted that Mr. Sullivan provided good answers to the questions and has a vision. He indicated that he is also impressed with Mr. Hyman and noted he brings the skill set of a negotiator and has previous commission experience. He was also impressed with Ms. MacDonald.

Councilmember Reed pointed out that Mr. Hyman's vision was not specific, and was interested in returning civility to interactions with people and is looking for win-win solutions. Mr. Hyman knows there are rules and restrictions, and wants to seek solutions rather than reasons to say no. He noted that Ms. Hurt's most important quality is bringing the right tone and seeking win-win solutions.

Mayor Lieberman stated that he previously supported Ms. Hurt, and that Mr. Hyman was not on his top-two list. He expressed support for Ms. MacDonald who brings a good background as a structural engineer. He stated that Mr. Hyman knows plans and wants to make the process better, but he would prefer that Mr. Hyman reapply to the Finance Commission. He pointed out that Mr. Parsons has represented himself well, but he would like to be able to have new people get involved. He indicated that he would support Ms. Hurt and Ms. MacDonald.

Discussion ensued.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Stone, seconded by Councilmember Reed, Resolution 2014-032 appointing Davina Hurt and Kerry MacDonald to the Planning Commission for three year terms expiring March 2017 was unanimously approved (3-0, Braunstein absent)

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 9:35p.m.

**Terri Cook
City Clerk**

Meeting audio-recorded but not videotaped